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Prevention of armed conflict: prevention of armed conflict

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 28 March 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to draw your attention to the following information:

Certain websites have recently posted an audio recording of a meeting of the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ahmet Davutoğlu, the Chief of the Turkish Intelligence Agency, Hakan Fidan, the Turkish Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Feridun Sinirlioğlu, and the Deputy Chief of the Armed Forces, Yaşar Güler. It is clear from the recording that the meeting took place recently, before the Turkish attack on the district of Kassab. Its purpose was to prepare for a Turkish attack on the Syrian Arab Republic and to create pretexts that would have conferred artificial legitimacy on that act of aggression.

During the meeting, the Turkish Foreign Minister stressed that the aggressive scheme must be consistent with international law. Turkey should appear as the victim, not the aggressor. The Chief of the Turkish Intelligence Agency said that he was prepared to manufacture any pretext to justify the attack. He said that he could send four people into Syrian territory, where they would launch eight rockets into an empty area of land in Turkey, or orchestrate an attack on the tomb of Sulayman Shah in Syrian territory. The Turkish Foreign Minister answered that Prime Minister Erdoğan had told him that an attack on the tomb of Sulayman Shah would be an opportunity that could be exploited to justify a Turkish military attack on Syria.

The recorded discussions prove what the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has stated in hundreds of formal letters, namely that Turkey has been supporting armed terrorist groups active in Syria. The Chief of the Turkish Intelligence Agency said that he had worked with the Qatari authorities to send weapons and ammunition to what he called rebels. He added that he had sent

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thousands of so-called fighters, i.e. extremist terrorists and foreign mercenaries, into Syrian territory against Government forces. He further stated that the Turkish authorities had sent over 2,000 vehicles laden with weapons and ammunition to the terrorist groups active in Syria.

Official statements issued by the Turkish Government and Prime Minister have confirmed that the recording is genuine. They denounced the leaking of a recording of a national security meeting as an immoral act. The Turkish authorities, which repeatedly and mendaciously claim to uphold human rights, have muzzled free speech, clamped down on liberties and saturated the media with warnings against the websites that posted the recording. Similar warnings have been issued to other social networks and websites that enable freedom of expression.

The Turkish Government and Armed Forces ignore the fact that the truly immoral act is their own support for terrorists. For three years, since the outset of the crisis in Syria, those terrorists have targeted Syria's people, State institutions, infrastructure and private property. Lying to the international community to justify aggression, and subsequently enlisting the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, would be the lowest form of political and moral depravity, not to mention a violation of the most basic principles of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the underpinnings of relations between States.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic wishes to draw the attention of the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council to that aggressive scheme and to Turkey's malicious intentions towards the Syrian Arab Republic. The Security Council must immediately shoulder its responsibility to preserve international peace and security. It must condemn the Turkish Government for backing terrorism, and hold it fully responsible for violating the sovereignty of a Member State and supporting the armed terrorist groups that attack Syrian territory from Turkish territory. The Council must warn Turkey of the consequences of persisting in its fatuous aggressive policies in the Middle East.

The audio recording can be accessed at the following link: http://youtube.com/watch?v=GhL0N1HLhNs.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 33 (a) and 110, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative